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Installation of a paper and pulp plant at Papanasam.

*380 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether any and if so, what decision has been arrived at about the installation of a paper and pulp plant to utilize the reed in Papanasam?

A.—The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Instead of saying as usual that the matter is under the consideration of Government, at least with regard to this matter, I hope the hon. Member may be a little . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think I shall be justified in permitting the hon. Member to make a speech. This occasion is intended only for putting supplementary questions."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member when this is likely to be disposed of?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"As I said before, as early as possible; I am not in a position to state more definitely than that."

Grievances of Forest Rangers in the Presidency.

*381 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether forest rangers in the Presidency submitted to Government in 1927 and in 1929 and foresters in April 1929 memorials setting forth their grievances, especially on the score of the stagnation in their services and requesting early redress of their grievances;

(b) why the subordinate forest service is not given time-scale of pay;

(c) whether foresters in the Logging Engineering Division are subjected to special hardships; and, if so, what allowance is granted to them;

(d) what other grievances in the subordinate forest services have come to the notice of Government; and

(e) what action Government have taken to redress them?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Please see answer to clauses (c) and (d). The question is under consideration.

(c) In view of the fact that the work of these foresters is responsible and entails additional expense, a class I allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem is sanctioned to them. The foresters are also eligible for a class IV allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem when their work lies in unhealthy localities.

(d) & (e) The officers in the subordinate forest services, rangers, foresters and forest guards have recently memorialized Government that a time-scale of pay should be sanctioned to them instead of the present graded pay. The rangers ask also for an increase in the leave reserve to 25 per cent. The foresters also request that 75 per cent of the selection of candidates for deputation to the Forest College should be reserved for them. These questions are now under consideration.

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Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" With reference to the answer to clause (e), it is stated that the matter is under consideration. I want to know whether it is under the sympathetic or unsympathetic consideration ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" It is too early to say. "

Hydro-Electric Schemes

Grant of licence to Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited.

* 382 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state in reference to the reproduction of notifications regarding grant of licence to Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited, at page 1334, Part I, *Fort St. George Gazette* of July 9, 1929—

(a) the circumstances under which an advertisement was published in the *Madras Mail*, dated 18th June 1929 ;

(b) whether the advertisement was published in any Indian-owned paper and if not, why it was not so published ;

(c) whether the municipalities of Ellore and Guntur were consulted before the advertisement was issued regarding the licence ; and what opinions they expressed thereon ; and

(d) whether any other individual or company applied for licence in regard to these towns and why they were not chosen ?

A.—(a) Under rule 13 of the rules under the Indian Electricity Act, an applicant for a licence has to publish notice of his application by public advertisement in a newspaper published or circulated in the proposed area of supply.

(b) The applicant is not required to publish such advertisement in more than one newspaper.

(c) The rules do not require an applicant to consult municipal councils before advertising his application.

(d) Messrs. Chari and Chari, Limited, have applied for a licence for the supply of electrical energy to Guntur. No licence has yet been granted to anybody.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether Government consulted the municipalities before publishing the advertisements in the *Fort St. George Gazette* ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The Government are not bound to consult them. There is no provision in law to consult them. When it is published in the Gazette or in the newspapers, it is for the bodies or individuals concerned to come up to Government with their objections, if any. "

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if the Government did not consider it desirable in cases like this to give municipalities the first chance and take their opinion ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" They are expected to read the Gazette and newspapers and, if they find objection, they will certainly bring it to the notice of Government."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—" May I know whether there is any provision in law to prevent them from consulting the municipalities ? "

The hon. the President :—" That is asking for an opinion."